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Agency of Human Services

Date: July 30, 2021

RE: The Education and Training Voucher Program, Chafee Foster Care Program

Governor Phil Scott,

DCF Family Services recently submitted the five-year Child and Family Services Plan 2020-2024 to the federal Children's Bureau. As part of the program instructions, Vermont is required to submit a certification for the Education and Training Voucher Program (ETV), under the Chafee Foster Care Program.

The Education and Training Voucher Program

The required certification is to confirm that Vermont is in compliance with conditions specific in subsection 447(i) of the Social Security Act and has described methods it will use to:

- Ensure that the total amount of educational assistance to a youth under this and any other Federal assistance program does not exceed the total cost of attendance; and
- Avoid duplication of benefits under this and any other Federal assistance program as defined in section 477(b)(3)(J)

Vermont continues to contract with the Vermont Student Assistance Corporation (VSAC) for ETV administration. VSAC has been successfully administering the Chafee/ETV scholarship for Vermont for many years. This partnership is particularly effective because VSAC also provides post-secondary education exploration and aspiration services to this same population, and they provide support for college applications, funding, and successful transitions to post-secondary education.

As part of DCF's subgrant with VSAC, is the expectation that VSAC will ensure youth do not receive educational assistance in excess of the total cost of their attendance. VSAC has a long history and strong reputation for administering federal, state, and private scholarship, grant, and loan programs in accordance with funder expectations.

VSAC notifies youth, families, schools, and support staff of their scholarship offerings through an annual publication, their website, a special webpage for youth in foster care, community presentations, and through their staff of Outreach Counselors who work directly with Vermont youth in middle and high schools across the state.

Vermont continues to provide some additional scholarship opportunities through the Emily Lester Scholarship (also administered by VSAC) and the Vermont Foster



& Adoptive Families (VFAFA) Scholarship. Some funding for supporting post-secondary education and training is also provided by our Chafee-funded Youth Development Program.

I hereby certify that Vermont has effectively implemented the Education and Training Voucher Program under the Chafee Foster Care Program. These are federal funds that are drawn down by the Agency of Human Services and passed to the DCF Family Services Division.

I am requesting your signature on the attached Certification verifying that Vermont is following the requirements outlined in the law. Once signed, Family Services will submit the certification to the federal Children's Bureau.

Thank you and please let me know if you have any questions,

Jenney Samuelson, Deputy Secretary
Vermont Agency of Human Services